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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Venezuela

SUBJECT Strike in Venezuela Oil Region

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1. The strike situation in the Mene Grande and Bachaquero districts of the east Lake Maracaibo area is reported to be normal. Seventy-five per cent of the workers in Lagunillas have returned to their jobs. The Cabimas and adjacent Tiajuana area, which appear to be the key to the present situation, are holding out with only five per cent of the laborers at work.
2. The Ministry of Labor issued a memorandum admonishing the workers to return to work by 19 January or stand to lose their rights and benefits with the companies. The workers at Cabimas and Tiajuana have failed to respond to this ultimatum. The Inspector of Labor stated that he had reliable information that conditions will be normal at these points by 20 January. The oil companies do not express such optimism. However, production is gradually being resumed.

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